

TANF is Critical in the Face of Federal Safety Net Cuts

TANF cuts adopted in DC's FY 2026 budget will **multiply the harm** that the federal government is inflicting on families and children through extensive cuts to health insurance, food assistance, and housing supports.

Federal Cuts to Medicaid, SNAP and Housing Assistance will Harm Millions, including Thousands in DC

- ▶ As a result of the Omnibus Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), about 10 million people nationwide will lose health insurance by 2034. About 29,000 people in DC will lose insurance just due to federal Medicaid cuts.¹
- ▶ OBBA implementation will cause 18,000 families in DC, including 5,000 families with children, to lose at least \$25 per month in SNAP benefits.²
- ▶ Congress is considering budget legislation which may cause up to 4,000 District residents to lose access to homelessness assistance and housing vouchers.³

Instead of shoring up the safety net, the District has adopted TANF cuts that will make it impossible for families to provide for themselves and their children.

- ▶ Eliminating the COLA will mean that TANF benefits will remain stagnant while prices continue to increase.
- ▶ Time limit reductions and stricter work sanctions will result in families – many of whom face significant barriers to obtaining and keeping employment – having even less capacity to absorb cuts to benefits.

The Council must restore TANF funding to reverse these harmful policies beginning in FY27.

For questions or more info, contact Leah Castelaz at LCastelaz@childrenslawcenter.org and Maria Manansala at mmanansala@dcpfpi.org.

Endnotes

¹ Burns, Alice, et al. “How will the 2025 Reconciliation Law affect the uninsured rate in each state?” KFF, 3 Nov. 2025, www.kff.org/uninsured/how-will-the-2025-reconciliation-law-affect-the-uninsured-rate-in-each-state.

² Giannarelli, Linda, et al. “How the Senate Budget Reconciliation SNAP Proposals Will Affect Families in Every US State” Urban Institute, Jul. 2025, <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/How-the-Senate-Budget-Reconciliation-SNAP-Proposals-Will-Affect-Families-in-Every-US-State.pdf>.

³ Acosta, Sonya. “Congress Must Act to Prevent Cuts That Would Leave Hundreds of Thousands at High Risk of Homelessness” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 17 Dec. 2025, <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/congress-must-act-to-prevent-cuts-that-would-leave-hundreds-of-thousands-at-high-risk-of>.